



ADRC Highlights

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Happy New Year 2013

In the last year, following such unprecedented natural disasters as the Great East Japan Earthquake and the Thailand Floods in 2011, the disaster risk reduction (DRR) awareness of the international community clearly seems to have changed. Although we experienced disasters of unprecedented scale in 2012, such as the M8.6 earthquake in Aceh, Indonesia in April, and the largest-ever Hurricane Sandy in November, national and local governments took response measures based on the lessons learned from past disasters and thus were able to minimize the resulting fatalities. Still, the amount of economic damage caused by Hurricane Sandy was the second largest in US history, highlighting the fact that economic activities continue to be vulnerable to natural disasters.

In response to these developments, the Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC) has continued to assist member countries on human resource development and the dissemination of disaster management education at the community level. At the same time, we are making new efforts to improve the capacity for disaster reduction in the private sector, through such measures as the promotion of business continuity planning (BCP).

The entire staff of ADRC will do their utmost to ensure the safety and security of people in Asia throughout this New Year.

Kiyoshi NATORI, Executive Director of ADRC



● Promoting Cooperation with Member Countries

ADRC DRR Policy Peer Review FY2012

In 2009, ADRC initiated a pilot project known as the DRR Policy Peer Review with the aim of developing the DRR capacity of ADRC member countries through the sharing of information and strengthening of relationships between member nations. This year, the fourth of this project, DRR Education in Armenia was selected as one of the target projects. After the submission of the country report, a reviewer team comprised of Dr. Aiko Sakurai (Associate Professor, Graduate School of International Cooperation Studies, Kobe University, Japan), Dr. Vishnu Dangel (Professor of Geology, Tribhuvan University, Nepal) and Mr. Junji Moriwaki (ADRC Researcher) visited Armenia to conduct interview surveys.

The team visited the National Seismic Protection Research Agency and other organizations involved in DRR education activities to examine what they have been doing to promote DRR education in Armenia. Next, the team observed classes and evacuation drills at schools in Yerevan and Gyumri. Finally, they

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prepared a draft report of the survey results with all their findings and recommendations. A workshop was held to share good practices for DRR education activities in Japan and Nepal, and this proved to be a good opportunity for those involved to share information and discuss ideas with one another.

This project aims to develop a mutual learning process among ADRC member countries instead of one-way learning. After completing its report, the reviewer team sends that report to the country surveyed as well as to the other ADRC member countries, to enhance mutual information sharing.

ADRC would like to express its sincerest gratitude to all of those who have contributed to the success of this project.

**● Announcement****Asian Conference on Disaster Reduction (ACDR) 2013 Draws to Successful Conclusion (FLASH)**

The Asian Conference on Disaster Reduction (ACDR) 2013 was held in Kobe, Hyogo Prefecture, Japan on 23 January 2013. The ACDR2013 was organized jointly by the government of Japan, the United Nations Secretariat of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR), and ADRC.

Detailed conference coverage will be presented in the next issue, Vol. 239.
(http://www.adrc.asia/acdr/2013_index.html)

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